(c) the steps being taken to solve such issues, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No such specific in formation/complaint regarding adulteration of coconut oil by blending it with cheaper oils has been brought to the notice of the Government in the recent past.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and the PFA Rules, 1955 framed thereunder prohibit the sale of a mixture of two or more edible oils as an edible oil. However, this prohibition shall be inoperative in respect of admixture of any two edible vegetable oils as an edible vegetable oil subject to conforming to following conditions:-

- proportion by weight of any edible vegetable oil used in the admixture is not less than 20% by weight and
- admixture of edible oils processed or packed and sold in sealed packages weighing not more than 15 litres under Agmark certification with proper label declaration.

(c) The PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder are implemented by the State/UT Governments who take action in cases where the samples are found to be adulterated/misbranded or violating the labeling provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder.

Review of foodgrains allocation policy

601. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in view of the sufficient foodgrains stocks with it, proposes to review the foodgrain allocation policy and allot full foodgrain quota sought by various State Governments for distribution through public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the monthly quota demanded by various State Governments during the year 2008 and 2009, so far, and the actual allocation made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families is made @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted numbers of such families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission, projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India, as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration card issued by each State/UT, whichever is less.

Full quantities of foodgrains are being allocated to BPL and AAY category as per the above norms for all accepted number of BPL including AAY families.

However, allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

Keeping in view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, their allocations for the APL category were rationalized from June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, by linking them to the offtake figures of the past three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

From January, 2008 to February, 2009, various State and UT Governments have requested for additional allocations of 7.61 lakh tons of rice and 3.62 lakh tons of wheat per month for APL category.

Allocations of rice for APL category to States/UTs for 2008-09 have been made on the basis of average of offtake level of APL rice during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Allocations of wheat during 2008-09 were initially made at earlier rationalized levels but in view of higher procurement in RMS 2008-09 and requests of State and UT Govts., additional allocations have been made subsequently.

With these additional allocations, during 2008-09, the total quantities of rice and wheat allocated under TPDS are 241.62 lakh tons of rice and 142.42 lakh tons of wheat.

In addition to TPDS, also about 24 lakh tons of wheat have been allocated under Open Market Sales Scheme to increase its availability for consumers.

Release of foodgrains to Orissa

602. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government is not able to release foodgrains like rice and wheat as per the requirement of the States; and

(b) what was the requisition of Orissa for the year 2005 to 2008 and the quantity released by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made as per allocation norms @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted numbers of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families for all the States/UTs, including the State of Orissa. This norm is based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission, projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India, as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by each State/UT, whichever is less. These allocations are not made on the basis of demands of any State/UT.

Full quantities of foodgrains are allocated to BPL and AAY families as per the above norms and no reduction has been made in their allocation.

However, allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and also on the basis of its offtake by the States/UTs.

Keeping in view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, a uniform decision was taken to rationalize wheat and rice allocations from the Central Pool stocks for the APL